

[0018] In a prior art inverter incorporating complementary MOSFET switches, voltage-limiting zeners 98 and 100 would be configured with equal component voltage ratings. However, in this alternate embodiment of the present invention, zener diodes 98 and 100 are configured with unequal voltage ratings. The unequal voltage ratings cause one of switches 94 and 96 to be in an on state longer than the opposite switch. The effect of unequal on times of switches 94 and 96 will be the same as illustrated in FIGURES 5a-5b and 6a-6b for BJT switches 40 and 42.

In the Claims

Please substitute amended claims 3, 6, 10 and 13 for pending claims 3, 6, 10 and 13 as follows:

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3. (Amended) The ballast circuit according to claim 2 wherein the bipolar junction transistor switches are configured to have unequal h_{FE} values.

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6. (Amended) The ballast circuit according to claim 5 wherein the Zener diodes are configured with unequal voltage values from each other.

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10. (Amended) The method according to claim 9 wherein the bipolar junction transistor switches are configured to have unequal h_{FE} values.

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13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the Zener diodes are configured with unequal voltage values from each other.